REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 10, 14-17 and 20 have been amended.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application. The above amendments have been made to place the claims in conformance with U.S. practice. The applicant has reviewed and amended the claims for clarification purposes only. There has been no narrowing amendments entered and no new matter has been added.

Attached as an appendix entitled "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**" is a marked-up version of the presently amended claims.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this request to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1656.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 28, 2001

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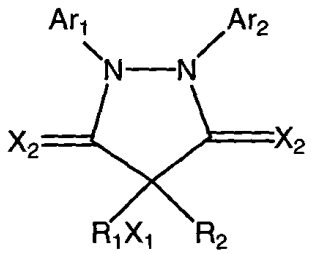
Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. [The use of a] A compound of formula I



(I)

(where each X_2, which may be the same or different is O or S,

X_1 is O, OO or S,

R_1 is hydrogen or a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group,

R_2 is hydrogen or a alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkaryl, aralkyl or aralkenyl group, containing up to 10 carbons, optionally substituted by a sulphonyl group,

and each of

Ar_1 and Ar_2, which may be the same or different, is a homo or heterocyclic aromatic group comprising 5 to 7 membered aromatic ring, optionally carrying a fused aromatic ring and optionally substituted on ring atoms by C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, thiol, C_{1-6} alkoxy, cyano, Cl, F, Br, I, protected hydroxy, or protected thiol), or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for use in therapy or prophylaxis.

3. [A] The method as claimed in claim 2 comprising administering said compound, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof in combination with another antiviral agent.

4. [A] The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said additional antiviral agent is at least one antiviral agent selected from a reverse transcriptase inhibitor and a protease inhibitor.

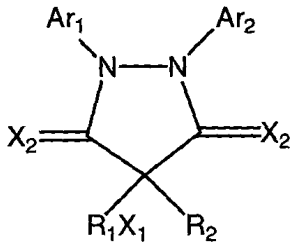
5. [A] The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said additional antiviral agent is an agent selected from the group of AZT, indinavir, nevirapine and 2',3'-dideoxyinosine (daI).

6. [A] The method as claimed in any of claims 2 to 5 wherein said disease is a disease caused by a pathogen from the group of togaviridea, reoviridea, picornaviridea, hantaviridea, orthomyxoviridea, paramyxoviridea, mononegaviralis, viral hepatitis, haemorrhagic fevers, flaviviridea, viral encephalitis, coronaviridea, calciviridea, adenoviridea, papovaviridea, arboviridea, pox virus, rhabdoviridea, arenaviridea HIV-1, HIV-2, HTLV-I, HTLV-II and herpes viruses.

8. [A] The method of combatting HIV infection as claimed in claim 7 wherein said T-lymphocyte growth suppressing agent is pyrazolidinol.

9. [A] The method as claimed in [claim 7 or] claim 8 wherein said interval is at least 9 months.

10. [A] The method as claimed in [any of claims 7 to] claim 9 wherein a compound of formula I



(I)

(where each X_2, which may be the same or different is O or S,

X_1 is O, OO or S,

R_1 is hydrogen or a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group,

R_2 is hydrogen or a alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkaryl, aralkyl or aralkenyl group, containing up to 10 carbons, optionally substituted by a sulphonyl group, and each of Ar_1 and Ar_2, which may be the same or different, is a homo or heterocyclic aromatic group comprising 5 to 7 membered aromatic ring, optionally carrying a fused aromatic ring and optionally substituted on ring atoms by C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, thiol, C_{1-6} alkoxy, cyano, Cl, F, Br, I, protected hydroxy, or protected thiol), or a physiologically acceptable salt there is administered in a daily dose of 0.1 to 10 μmol/kg bodyweight.

12. [A] The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11 additionally comprising another antiviral agent.

14. [A] The compound as claimed in claim 13 [or claim 14] wherein one X_2 group is S.

15. [A] The compound as claimed in [either of claims] claim 13 [or 14] wherein X_1 is O.

16. [A] The compound as claimed in [any of claims] claim 13 [to 15] wherein R_1 is acyl.

17. [A] The compound as claimed in [any of claims] claim 13 [to 16] wherein R_1 is hydrogen.

18. [A] The compound as claimed in claim 13 wherein each X_2 is oxygen, R_1X_1 is HO or $CH_3CO.O$, and R_2 is C_{1-6} alkyl or alkenyl, or a salt thereof.

19. [A] The compound as claimed in any of claims 13 to 18 for use as a medicament.

20. A compound comprising 4-butyl-4-hydroxy-2(p-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-3,5-pyrazolidinedione for use as a medicament.

22. [A] The method of claim 21 wherein said disease is selected from Addison's disease, Behçet's syndrome, diabetes mellitus, haemolytic anaemia, lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, pernicious anaemia, polyglandular deficiency, polymyositis, dermatomyositis, testicular failure, thrombocytopenic purpura, Chrons disease, ulcerative colitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

23. [A] The method of claim 21 wherein said tissue rejection is tissue rejection following transplant.